

This crime package is anticrime and fat free. Not propork.

Mr. Speaker, after the crime package is complete, we will move on to welfare reform and regulatory reform and one of the passions of mine, legal reform, that we will also be pursuing. We will not stop until our Contract With America is complete.

The 104th Congress is all about change and returning this place back to the people and to the States where it rightfully belongs.

PARTY POLITICS

(Mr. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, the debate on the crime bill is a choice between the President's 100,000 cops program and the Republican's pork "do whatever you want with the money" program for the States. Republicans are putting politics over public safety. They want to dismantle the community police program that our cities and small towns and our police officers need to fight crime.

They want to deny the President the credit he deserves for a program that has great support among America's police officers, has already provided 17,000 new police officers in 4 months, has benefited small towns. Just last week the Justice Department announced that 6,500 small towns have gotten 7,100 new police officers, no matter how small the town.

Mr. Speaker, it takes one page to fill out an application for a police officer and a decision can be made in less than 4 weeks.

Mr. Speaker, let us put cops over pork.

BLOCK GRANTS

(Mr. DAVIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, today we will continue to consider the most critical element in the contract's anticrime bill regarding block grants. The choice before us is a simple one. Who are the most effective crime fighters? The Washington politicians or our local police officers?

Some House Democrats believe they are the best crime fighters. That is why in last year's alleged crime bill, they mandated that billions of dollars go to social welfare programs under the guise of prevention. House Republicans have a different view. We believe that local police officials know their own communities better than we do and they know how to fight crime better in these communities and in the most effective manner. That is why we have designed a block grant proposal that gives these police officers the best chance to fight crime.

Our friends on the other side of the aisle will claim that our proposal will mean fewer cops on the beat. Nothing could be further from the truth. I believe that our program will probably mean more funds go for more police officers on the front lines fighting crime.

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of our local police forces by voting for the crime bill on the floor today.

COMMUNITY POLICING

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am sure everybody is confused. They have to be. Who is the best crime fighter in America today? None of us know. But there are a couple things that I know from experience that I had in chairing a public safety committee in the county legislature.

One of the things that happened when the pressure really got on the local budgets, they cut back on the police force and decided to patrol neighborhoods in police cars with windows up driving down the streets. We know that that has not worked. And one of the things that the crime bill that we passed here last year is trying to do is to readdress that.

There is one way to fight crime. It requires the people who live in the neighborhood to be involved. It requires that there be police in the neighborhood, on the street, in their shops, a policeman that they know, a person they go to, someone who pays attention, looks after their children, the kind of community policing we used to do in this country.

If we revert all the money and put it into prisons, it is not going to make us one wit safer on the street. We have been in an absolute orgy of jail and prison building which has not helped. Someone has got to be on the street to police it, to prevent the crime and to catch the perpetrators. I hope that we will maintain the 100,000 policemen on the street.

TRIBUTE AND THANK YOU TO VETERANS

(Mr. COBLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, last week the Paralyzed Veterans of America were in town, and I attended the reception they hosted. I hope many of my colleagues did as well. The reception room was filled with paralyzed veterans confined to wheelchairs. But as I spoke with North Carolinian Cater Cornwell and the other paralyzed vets, I heard not one veteran who was griping, not one who was complaining. All were smiling and pleasantly welcoming us to their reception.

As I was leaving the reception, a veteran said to me from his wheelchair, "You Congressmen deserve praise for what you do."

I looked around the reception room and the paralyzed veterans therein and with a tear in my eye, I replied, "No, sir, it is you and your fellow members of the PVA who are most deserving of praise."

Let us not casually dismiss the sacrifices made for us by the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

MORE PRISONS

(Mr. HILLIARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise and ask the American people to take a look at what has been done today in Congress. We want to make sure that we will continue to put cops on the street where they belong, where they can be of use.

Our dear friends on the Republican side have decided to change the bill that we passed last year. For some reason they do not like the idea of 100,000 cops on the street, patrolling, being where they are supposed to be.

They intend to warehouse people for the next 100 years. So what they are going to do? They are going to build prisons. They are going to build prisons and build prisons. In fact, they are going to create a new industry just to build prisons. Building prisons, building prisons.

And what is going to happen? We are going to have to have guards. In Alabama, we built three prisons in 5 years. It took us 7 years to get enough money to open the last two, because we did not have the money for the guards and for the food.

I submit to my colleagues that the Republican bill is off track. It will cost more money than the bill we passed last year, and it is bad.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BE-REUTER). The Chair announces that under the order of the day, only two more Members will be recognized on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE U.S.S. "SANTA FE"

(Mr. FLANAGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLANAGAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the captain of the ship, Comdr. James Fordice, and the officers and crew of the U.S.S. *Santa Fe* a *Los Angeles*-class, fast attack submarine. Ten days ago I had the opportunity to develop an understanding and respect for this Nation's "silent service" by spending time aboard